



# Intelligence Information Cable

STATE/INR NMCC/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA [REDACTED] NSC/S SDO NIO CRS

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DIRECTORATE OF  
OPERATIONS

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DIST 15 FEBRUARY 1975

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI [REDACTED] FEBRUARY 1975

SUBJECT DISCUSSION AT [REDACTED] FEBRUARY JCIA PLENARY MEETING  
OF MISSING IN ACTION PERSONNEL, FOREIGN TROOPS  
IN LAOS, PLANTING OF DEMARCATION STAKES AND  
OTHER ISSUES

SUMMARY I

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: FEB 2001

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END SUMMARY.

1. ON [REDACTED] FEBRUARY 1975, A PLENARY MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) WAS HELD. THE FIRST MATTER FOR DISCUSSION WAS THE PLANTING OF DEMARCATION POSTS. LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) CHIEF DELEGATE S O T H PHETRASY PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF FIXING NEUTRAL AREAS BETWEEN OPPOSING FORCES AT HOT POINTS IN MILITARY REGION (MR) III. IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND A MOBILE TEAM TO THE AREA TO IMPLEMENT THIS DECISION.

2. SOTH SUGGESTED THAT POSTS BE QUICKLY PLANTED IN THE AREA OF NONG SONG HONG (UNLOCATED) AND KOUAN PHAVANG (UNLOCATED) AND VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN AGREED. SOUKAN

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SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A LETTER PROTESTING THE VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE AREA OF PHOU SOUNG AND NA NAN (TG 2936) IN MR II AND SAID THAT HE WOULD AGREE TO HAVE THE POST PLANTED HALF-WAY BETWEEN PHOU SOUNG AND NA NAN. THERE WAS NO FINAL AGREEMENT ON THIS MATTER.

3. SOTH URGED THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE QUICKLY AND QUIETLY REMOVE THE SIGN OVER THE VIENTIANE MUNICIPAL GARRISON SINCE THE ROYAL ORDINANCE DIRECTING THIS ACTION HAS ALREADY BEEN ISSUED. SOTH STATED THAT HE DID NOT AGREE THAT A CEREMONY SHOULD BE HELD AT THE TIME OF REMOVAL. SOUKAN REPLIED THAT A COPY OF THE ORDINANCE WAS IN VIENTIANE SIDE MILITARY CHANNELS AND THAT THE SIGN WOULD BE REMOVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. SOTH REQUESTED THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ESTABLISH THE CAMP OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF). SOUKAN REPLIED THAT IF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE DID NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE LAND FOR THE PMF CAMP, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WOULD BE REQUESTED TO ALLOW THE VIENTIANE SIDE TO USE THE CIVIC ACTION PROPERTY AT BAN AMONE (UNLOCATED) FOR THE PMF CAMP.

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NO DECISION WAS REACHED ON THE MATTER.

5. SOTH RAISED THE MATTER OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THAKHEK AND THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING JCIA REPRESENTATIVES GO WITH THE PLANNED GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO THAKHEK. SOUKAN SAID HE HAD ALREADY ASKED VIENTIANE SIDE JCIA DELEGATE L O U N SISOUNOL TO BE PREPARED TO GO TO THAKHEK AND HE SUGGESTED THAT LPF DELEGATE P R A D I T H THIENGHAM GO-YOO. THIS WAS AGREED TO.

6. VIENTIANE DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATE DR. K I T H O N G VONGSAY AND LPF DELEGATE P H O N E X A Y SANATAVASY REPORTED ON THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES AND THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING SUFFICIENT PLANES. IT WAS MENTIONED THAT THE RED CROSS WAS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND IT WAS DECIDED TO INVITE THE RED CROSS TO PARTICIPATE.

7. SOUKAN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM LAOS. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO SET UP JOINT MOBILE UNITS WHICH WOULD INSPECT LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE JCIA. VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG WILL BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION. SOTH STATED THAT HE WAS

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VERY SUSPICIOUS OF THE PRESENC OF THAI AND U.S. TROOPS IN THESE TWO CITIES. THE MATTER WAS ASSIGNED TO A SUB-COMMITTEE TO DRAFT AN AGREEMENT ON INSPECTION. COMMENT: THIS PROBABLY WILL NOT INVOLVE A SEARCH OF FOREIGNERS' HOMES AND THE PRINCIPLE OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WILL BE MAINTAINED.)

-8. SOUKAN RAISED THE MATTER OF THE MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) AND SAID THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE WANTED TO KNOW THE NAMES OF THOSE PERSONS STILL ALIVE AND DETAINED BY THE LPF, THOSE PERSONS STILL ALIVE WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO LIVE IN CONTROLLED AREAS OF THE LPF, THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE STILL ALIVE AND WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE WITH THE LPF, AND THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED AND THE PLACES WHERE THEIR BODIES HAVE BEEN BURIED. SOUKAN EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE EXPERTS IN IDENTIFICATION OF BODIES WHO USED TO WORK IN LAOS AND WHO CAN IDENTIFY PEOPLE ON THE BASIS OF A SKELETON. SOTH REPLIED THAT THE LPF WOULD ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE NAMELISTS REQUESTED BUT STATED THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO FOREIGN EXPERTS COMING INTO LAOS AND CHECKING THE BONES OF THE DECEASED BEACUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT THEY WOULD ALSO INTERFERE IN OTHER AFFAIRS

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OF LAOS. SOTH STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE ABILITY OF EXPERTS TO MAKE IDENTIFICATIONS AND THAT HE WAS ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LAOS. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE TWO MAN SUB-COMMITTEE OF P H A O BUNNAPHOL AND A R Y A PHIMMASSONE SHOULD STUDY THE MIA QUESTION IN MORE DETAIL.

9. THE NEXT MATTER DISCUSSED WAS THE VIOLATION OF LAO AIRSPACE IN ATTOPEU PROVINCE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER P H O U M I VONGVICHIT HAD FORWARDED TO SOTH AND SOUKAN COPIES OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER ON

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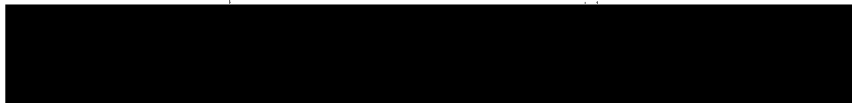
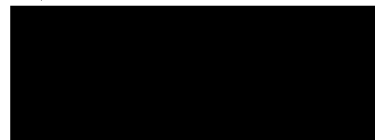
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THIS SUBJECT ASKING FOR A JCIA INVESTIGATION.) SOUKAN SAID THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION WAS TO SEND A JOINT MOBILE TEAM TO ATTOPEU IMMEDIATELY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.

COMMENT: THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD DECIDED THIS WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE STEP AND WOULD PUT THE LPF ON THE DEFENSIVE BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION IN THE AREA OF SOUTH LAOS CONTROLLED BY THE LPF OR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY.) SOTH OPPOSED SENDING A TEAM AT THIS TIME SUGGESTING AS A FIRST STEP THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOULD BE ASKED TO QUERY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY TO SEE IF THEY WOULD CONFIRM THE VIOLATIONS OF LAO AIRSPACE BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE PLANES.

10. SOTH PROPOSED THAT THE TWELVE DEMONSTRATORS FROM THAKHEK NOW BEING HELD UNDER JCIA CUSTODY AT THE JOINT HEADQUARTERS OF THE JOINT MILITARY FORCE BE GIVEN MORE FREEDOM. SOTH SAID THAT THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME AND GO IN THE DAYTIME AND SHOULD HAVE MORE FREEDOM IN RECEIVING GUESTS. SOTH COMMENTED THAT S I S A V A N G CHANTHEPHA, LEADER OF THE 21 ORGANIZATIONS, HAD VISITED HIM ON BEHALF OF THE PRISONERS. SOUKAN REPLIED THAT THE PRISONERS WERE RECEIVING GOOD CARE.

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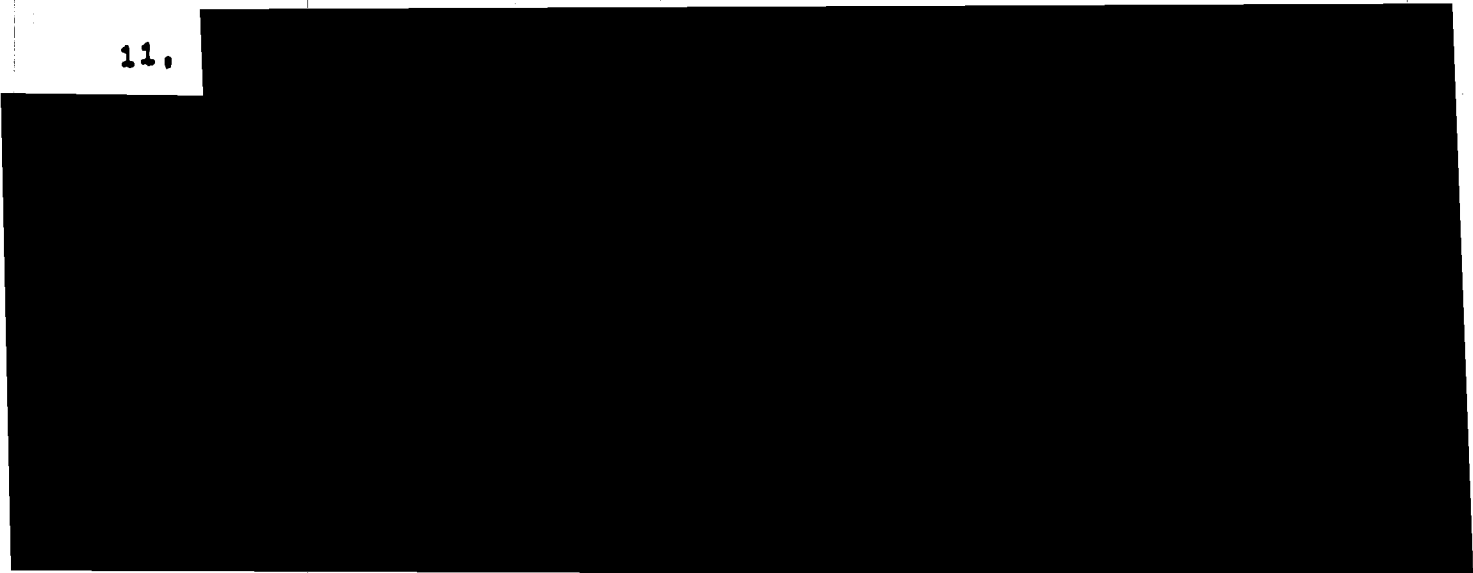
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